

# **Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee**

May 2, 2018

## **Minutes**

Chairperson Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of reflection by Fisk Outwater. We took a moment of silence to remember Neil Broome

**Committee Members present:** Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Charleen Thompson, Jack Santaniello, Amanda Kohout, James Munoz, Larry Stawicki, Phil Mowry, Fred Baylor, Dessi Dufresne and Michael Vento

**Guests Welcomed:** Jeff Miller (Town Commissioner) Jim Thurman, Jut Ayconang (Matthews Residents) Mike Kipp (Potential Board Member), Rad Pate (ToM Liason)

**Special Guest Speaker:** Commissioner Jeff Miller – Thank us for inviting him and thank the veterans for their service. He has attended our Breakfast for Veterans event and helped push for the Memorial Day event to become a town event. He also thanked us for the 5 military service flags we provided.

Jeff gave us some information of some upcoming events. Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> from 10-12:30 Novant Matthews Medical Center Celebration

Monday May 28<sup>th</sup> Stumptown Memorial Day event

**Minutes of April 4th, 2018:** Minutes were approved as transmitted

**Old Business:**

**1: Subcommittee 1. Awareness:** Amanda gave us an update about their committee. The breakfast is all set for June 16<sup>th</sup>. Flyers and posters are being distributed. A press release has been written and ready to go out in the Charlotte Observer and Matthews Mint Hill Weekly. They will have signup sheets at next meeting for help with the breakfast. Fred suggested we have some days where some of us sit in front of places like Costco and Lowes and see if we can meet some veterans to invite to the breakfast.

**2: Subcommittee 2. Resources and Collaboration:** Larry gave us update. They did not have a meeting this month. The veterans hiring policy is still being reviewed and edited. They showed their draft of "The benefits of hiring veterans" to some other eyes that aren't military and they received positive feedback. They are still tweaking it. We also had a discussion about the state of the display in vestibule of library/town hall. It needs to be restocked and see if we can find any other information to fill it with. Also there is talk that there may be an opportunity for some sort of memorial at the Purser/Hulsey Park.

**3: Subcommittee 3. Communications:** Dessi and her committee did meet this past month. They were supposed to meet with Maureen from the ToM to discuss how best to communicate the MVAC event to her per the Town policy but Maureen was unable to attend meeting. Angelo has ordered Purple Heart Signs. They are waiting on Parks and Rec department to get back with them on their ideas for a military themed park. Amanda asked what procedure we will follow for press releases. It was decided that each committee sends to Dessi and then she will relay it to Maureen.

**4: Subcommittee 4: Executive:** Korean /Vietnam exhibit is still under way. Signup sheet for MVAC members to work was passed. Phil made suggestion we outsource this event next year since we are an advisory committee. Fisk mentioned the reason this event got started was to let veterans know about our committee. Tom suggests we discuss this in our after action report for this event.

We presented our Annual Review to the Town Board and the 10 other ToM committees. Our review outlining the status of our membership , our mission and role, our 2018 accomplishments, our 2019 goals and what we as a committee need from the town to accomplish our tasking's

Matthews Alive/Labor Day Parade- No changes- we will focus on this after the Exhibit and Breakfast is complete.

**New Business:** June is election month, we will open up the slate of officers and if you want to nominate someone you can go by Rad's office and place the name on the list. Fisk announced he will not be Chairperson.

Fisk discussed Honor Flight and hopes that the ToM would sponsor a veteran for Honor Flight. Next flight is May of 2019. Rad knows someone who can come give us a presentation about the Honor Flight.

Mvac sent flowers to funeral for Neil Broome- a collection was taken up to pay Charleen back for ordering them.

**Treasurer's Report:** We are awaiting news from ToM on our suggested budget.

**Chairperson /Vice Chairperson Comments:** Fisk said He and Tom and Dessi have been speaking with various groups and making visits as representatives of the MVAC. These include American Legion, VFW, MCVC, Keeping Business Local Networking, Veterans Canteen, Matthews Joint Committee and Matthews Community Discussion

Fisk will send out formal invitations to Town Board Members for the breakfast and for the exhibit. Also Fisk mentioned to send invite to JROTC at schools.

**Comments-Town Council Liaison:** Rad did not have any comments at this meeting.

**Open Comments:** Mike Kipp was introduced as a potential candidate. He was given an application. He is a West Point graduate of 2012 and moved here to work in finance.

Phil Mowry gave the history of National Poppy Day. He asked us to help spread the word. He also spoke about the American Legion and some of their upcoming events they hope we will help support.

Dessi mentioned Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> would be the Cinco De Matthews Crawl to start at 12 Noon

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Charleen Thompson, Secretary